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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 DHA-02 /086 W
----------201533 118987 /53
R 201415Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5956
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0456

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AG, FR
SUBJECT: ALGERIAN/FRENCH RELATIONS: FAURES' VISIT TO ALGERIA

REF: (A) ALGERS 0335, (B) ALGIERS 0372, (C) ALGIERS 414

1. PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE THAT VISIT OF FRENCH ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT AND MRS. EDGAR FAURE TO ALGERIA FEBRUARY 10-13 SUCCESSFUL. FAURES SAW BOUMEDIENE FOR TWO HOURS, AND ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ALSO MET WITH INDUSTRY AND ENERGY MINISTER ABDESSELAM. BOTH FAURES EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR BOUMEDIENE AND DESCRIBED MEETING AS FRANK AND CORDIAL. GOA REPORTED TO HAVE TURNED OUT IN FORCE FOR FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S DINNER IN FAURES' HONOR, AND HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTER BENYAHIA ESCORTED THEM ON TRIP TO DESSERT.

2. DESPITE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT FAURE WAS VISITING TO LEND HIS EXPERIENCE TO ALGERIANS IN SETTING UP NEW PARLIAMENT, FRENCH EMBASSY TELLS US THAT SOLE PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO OBTAIN LIBERATION OF FRENCH PRISONERS IN ALGERIAN JAILS. THESE MEN WERE TO HAVE BENEFITED FROM RECENT GOA CLEMENCY MEASURE (ALGIERS 0335) BUT REMAINED INCARCERATED, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF ALGERIAN DESIRE FOR HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH MESSAGE OF THANKS (ALGIERS 0372).
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ACCORDING TO FRENCH, FAURE RAISED ISSUE WITH BOUMEDIENE, AND MRS. FAURE, SPEAKING "AS A WOMAN,"

BROKE IN TO PLEAD FOR RELEASE "ON BEHALF OF WIVES, MOTHERS AND SISTERS" OF THOSE IN PRISON. FAURE REPORTED THAT, AFTER BRIEF GLACIAL SILENCE, BOUMEDIENE RESPONDED: "ALL RIGHT. JUST FOR YOU I

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WILL RELEASE THEM, BUT DO NOT SPEAK ANY MORE ABOUT IT."

3. ALTHOUGH NO RELEASES HAVE YET TAKEN PLACE, FRENCH EMBASSY REMAINS HOPEFUL AND IS STRESSING NECESSITY FOR SILENCE ON ISSUE. PREMATURE PUBLICITY, EMBASSY BELIEVES, COULD RAISE ALGERIAN BACKS. THEREFORE, GOF WILL REMAIN SILENT, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY, AND FAURE REPORTEDLY WILL DISCOURAGE PRESS COMMENTARIES.

4. COMMENT: FAURES' VISIT HAS APPARENTLY SET STAGE FOR INCREASED CORDIALITY IN ALGERIAN/FRENCH RELATIONS. FAILURE OF GOA TO RELEASE PRISONERS, AND PERHAPS INCIDENT AT ALGIERS SYNAGOGUE (ALGIERS 414), HAD SEEMED TO REVERSE WARMING TREND, BUT PRISONER RELEASES WOULD BE A MAJOR PLUS.

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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